

Dear FCC,

From a consumer---An added tidbit on market forces driving consumers toward the capability of receiving over-the-air digital/HD broadcasts....

I found the following exchange in an internet forum string on the availability of the popular new Hitachi 51S715 (with integrated digital tuner). The set might be more popular if people could actually buy it.

"Well I finally got a call back from someone at CC. Per Danny, the Senior TV buyer for Circuit City, they are NOT going to carry this model because it's a CRT RPTV with integrated tuner. But will carry LCD RPTV's with integrated tuner."

And from another person:

"I got the same reply as the store manager told me a tv with an integrated tuner is pointless because OTA in my area you can only pick up 3 hd channels but getting cable or satellite, you will get around 12-15."

I must be missing something because I had no idea that the cable and satellite people were now carrying BOTH broadcasters' analog and digital/HD channels. And for so long they were strongly resisting that. Will wonders never cease!

An integrated digital tuner "pointless?" Why then even bother putting NTSC tuners inside TVs? Are there people who actually still get their TV over-the-air (besides me, that is)? Aren't "market forces" wonderful?